

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) An actuator panel for a control system on a powered machine having a frame having a pivoting control lever, said control lever having a shaft portion extending outwardly from a pivot axis of the control lever, the control system and the control lever being mounted on the frame for controlling a ground drive for the frame, the actuator panel being pivotally mounted on said frame, said actuator panel being urged in a first direction extending outwardly from the frame, and having an actuator bracket adjustably mounted on the actuator panel adjacent to the shaft portion, the actuator bracket moving with the actuator panel to engage the control lever and to move the control lever to a selected position from a first position when the actuator panel pivots toward the frame.

2. (Previously Presented) The actuator panel of claim 1, wherein the powered machine is self-propelled, and said control controls movement of the frame in a rearward direction of movement, the actuator panel being mounted at a rear of the power machine.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The actuator panel of claim 1, wherein said actuator panel is pivotally mounted on the frame at a first location adjacent ~~the~~a rear of the powered machine, and tapers rearwardly and downwardly at an angle.

5. (Previously Presented) An actuator panel for a control system on a powered machine having a frame, a control valve block mounted on the frame, a control lever pivotally mounted to the valve block about a pivot axis, said control lever having a shaft portion extending outwardly from the pivot axis of the control lever, the control system being mounted on the frame for controlling a ground drive for the frame, an actuator spool in

said valve block and said actuator spool being linearly moveable and having a portion pivotally mounted to the lever at a second pivot spaced from the pivot of the lever to the valve block, the actuator panel being pivotally mounted on said frame, said actuator panel being urged in a first direction extending outwardly from the frame, and having an actuator bracket mounted thereon adjacent to the shaft portion, the control lever including an actuator rod extending in a direction toward the pivoting actuator panel, the actuator bracket moving to engage the control lever and to move the control lever to a selected position from a first position when the actuator panel pivots toward the frame.

6.(Original) The actuator panel of claim 5, wherein said valve block has a pair of spools, and two levers, each of the levers controlling movement of a drive for the machine frame, in fore and aft directions of movement, said levers being engageable with the actuator bracket in a first position of each of said levers which causes the frame to be propelled.

7.(Original) The actuator panel of claim 5, wherein said valve block is mounted adjacent a rear panel of the frame, said actuator panel being pivotally mounted to the rear portion of the frame and to the rear of said valve block, the actuator rod on said control lever extending between the pivotal mounting of the actuator panel and the pivotal mounting of the lever to the valve block, the actuator bracket engaging the rod at a position between the rear of the frame and the valve block.

8.(Original) The actuator panel of claim 7, wherein said valve block and a pivotal axis of the pivoting actuator panel are closely adjacent in lateral and fore and aft directions.

9.(Currently Amended) The actuator panel of claim 5, wherein said pivoting actuator panel has a major portion extending

rearwardly of a rear panel of the frame, and wherein the actuator bracket extends through an opening in the rear panel toward the valve block.

10. (Original) The actuator panel of claim 6, wherein said first position of the levers moves the respective spool to drive the powered machine in a rearward direction, the levers having a central axis and extending above an upper panel of the frame for manual operation, said actuator rod being positioned substantially perpendicular to the central axis of the levers below the upper panel of the frame, and the actuator bracket on the pivoting actuator panel passing through a rear wall of the frame to align with the actuator rods on the levers, the actuator bracket having adjustment slots therein for receiving fasteners to secure the actuator bracket to the pivoting panel.

11. (Currently Amended) A powered machine having a frame, drive members on opposite sides of said frame controllable by hydraulic motors, the powered machine being operable by an operator standing on the surface supporting the machine, and at ~~the~~a rear of the machine, a hydraulic control valve block on the machine and having sliding valves with actuator levers pivoted relative to the valve block for controlling the respective motors for driving the drive members to move the machine selectively in forward and reverse directions upon movement of the actuator levers from a neutral position, the actuator levers extending above the frame for manual operation by an operator standing at the rear of the machine, a return member extending outwardly from each of the levers and swinging in an arc as the respective actuator levers are moved to move the sliding valves, and a pivoting actuator panel mounted to the frame and having a portion that extends outwardly from the rear of the frame, said pivoting actuator having a bracket mounted thereon, said pivoting actuator being urged to extend outwardly from the machine under a bias force, and being pivotable to move inwardly when a force is

provided on the pivoting actuator tending to move the pivoting actuator toward the rear of the frame, said bracket engaging the return member on the respective actuator lever when the respective actuator lever is in a position to drive the respective drive member in reverse and the pivoting actuator pivoting to a position under such force to move the respective actuator levers to their respective neutral positions.

12. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 11, wherein said pivoting actuator comprises an actuator panel extending laterally across the rear portions of the frame, and having pivot brackets for pivotally mounting the actuator panel on opposite sides of the frame.

13. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 11, wherein the return members on the actuator levers comprise actuator rods extending outwardly from the respective actuator levers.

14. (Original) The machine of claim 12, wherein said actuator panel inclines rearwardly and downwardly from its pivotal mounting.

15. (Original) The machine of claim 12, wherein said actuator panel has a pair of mounting brackets that are pivotally mounted to side members of the frame, said mounting brackets extending rearwardly through openings in a rear wall of the frame, the actuator panel having a lower portion that extends outwardly from the rear of the frame a greater distance than an upper portion, whereby forces engaging the lower portion tend to pivot the actuator panel to a position to move the levers from a rearward drive position to the stopped position.

16-18. (Canceled)